

ON CYCLES.

[*Occultus* is a student of Theosophy whose article is as thought provoking as it is suggestive. Eds.]

The latest astronomical view is that the universe is finite. It has boundaries invisible to senses but conceived by mathematicians. Presently they will deal with measurements and proclaim that the universe is in the form of an egg. That is what the ancient *Seers* declared. *Brahmanda*, the egg of *Brahma*, was the universe named.

We already see the attempt on the part of certain religious dogmatists of putting the creator of the universe, which is now said by science to be finite, outside of it. That is accepting half the truth and manufacturing a lie out of it. The universe is finite in the sense that our body is finite; it is made up of matter which is indestructible, i.e., immortal. Science is looking out for primordial matter whose existence is not only suspected but felt; the ancients knew of the nature of *Svabhavat*, the plastic essence of matter.

The universe is finite—it has a beginning and an end; but *Svabhavat*, the formative, vital, life-principle has neither beginning nor end. In the ocean of primordial stuff, universes swim like fishes. Hear an ancient text:—

All around this *Brahmanda* (Egg of *Brahma*, i.e., a solar system) there blaze infinite millions of *Brahmandas*; each has its own shell (or envelope; each self with its sphere) four-faced, five-faced, successively up to a thousand-faced portions of *Nanyama*, in whom *Rajaguna* is predominant, each the unfold of one world-system, each its presiding deity. Aspects of *Nanyama*, called *Vishnu* and *Maheshvara*, in whom *Sattva* and *Tamogunas* predominate, also are there, performing the work of preservation and destruction, of sustaining and regenerating. These *Brahmandas* swim like shoals of fishes in the Ocean of Existence; these *Brahmandas* blow up and burst like bubbles on the Face of the Deep that ever is.

Prabhava and *pralaya*, the emergence and disintegration of any given universe, are recognized in the ancient science and are beginning to be recognized in the modern. In the laboratory of space globes, systems and cosmoses come to life, persist and perish like a human body. Thus periods of birth and death arise and the law governing them was and is known among Theosophists as the Law of Cycles. The Greek *Kuklos* and the Hindu *Yuga* tell us of this. Cycles were represented by circles and wheels of life. Among the ancient occultists one branch of higher mathematics dealt with cycles, and so it is among their modern heirs.

The occultists, the students of the hidden mysteries of the universe who have mastered nature, i.e., the workings of the plastic essence of matter or *Svabhavat*, taught in symbol and emblem. Masses of mankind learnt by rote, often without intellectual understanding, and were impressed by such teachings; and even in this dark hard cycle or *Kali Yuga*, Iron Age, they instinctively feel and intuitively respond to the old-world experiences. Thus in India the dance of the *Gopis* around the Solar God, *Krishna*, represents the circling of the Zodiac.